WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A   device   for   processing   digital   images

2   comprising:

3   a reference platform;

4   an   camera   interface   coupled   to   the   reference

5   platform and operable to receive a digital input; and

6   an communication interface coupled to the reference

7   platform operable to communicate said digital input to a

8   wide area network.

1   2.   The   device   of   claim   1,   wherein   the   reference

2   platform comprises:

3   a processor operable to execute instructions; and

4   a data storage media operable to store configuration

5   data and said digital input.

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1   3.   The   device   of   claim   1,   wherein   the

2 communication interface device is operable to communicate

3 to a service provider.

1   4.   The   device   of   claim   1,   wherein   the

2   communication interface is a dial up modem.

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1   5.   The   device   of   claim   1,   wherein   the

2   communication   interface   is   to   a   broadband   enabled

3   network.

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1   6.   The   device   of   claim   1,   wherein   the

2 communication interface is an ethernet.

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1   7.. The device of claim 1, wherein the

2 communication interface is a token ring.

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1   8. The   device   of   claim   1,   wherein   the

2 communication interface is a FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data

3 Interface).

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1   9.   The   device   of   claim   1,   wherein   the

2   communication interface is an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer

3   Mode).

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1   10. The device of claim 1, wherein the

2   communication interface uses TCP/IP (Transmission Control

3   Protocol/Internet Protocol).

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1   11. The device of claim 1, wherein the camera

2 interface is selected from a group consisting of Smart

3 Media, Compact Flash, USB, BlueTooth, Sony Memory Stick,

4 floppy disk, compact disk, and zip disk.

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1   12.   The   device   of   claim   1,   further   comprising   a

2 digital camera coupled to the reference platform.

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1   13. A method for processing digital images

2   comprising the steps of:

3   providing image data on a storage media;

4   connecting the storage media to a reference

5   platform;

6   connecting the reference platform to a service

7   provider; and

8   uploading the image data to the service

9   provider.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, further comprising the

2   step of editing the uploaded image data on the service

3   provider.

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1   15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the

2 step of processing the image data in the storage media.

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1   16.   The method of claim 13, further comprising the

2 step of deleting image data from the storage media after

3 each image is uploaded.

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1   17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the

2 step of enabling a user to view the image via a web

3 browser.

1   18. The method of claim 13, further comprising the

2 step of providing that the service provider print the

3 image.

1   19. The method of claim 13, further comprising the

2 step of creating a web page with the image data.

1   20. The method of claim 13, further comprising the

2 step of creating a compact disk with the image data.

1   21. The method of claim 13, further comprising the

2 step of directing the image data to be processed at a

3 processing center in close proximity to the end user.

1   22. A   method   for   processing   digital   images

2 comprising the steps of:

3   providing for a reference platform;

4   establishing a standard default profile in the

5 reference platform;

6   connecting a reference platform to a website

7 for setting initial user profile information; and

8   downloading initial user profile information

9 onto   the   reference   platform.

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1   23.   The   method   of   22   wherein   establishing   a

2   standard default profile comprises:

3   providing a modem; and

4   setting a phone number to dial.

1   24.   The   method   of   22   wherein   user   profile

2   information is selected from a group consisting of:

3   a username and password;

4   an identification number of a device;

5   a method of payment;

6   a setting to allow access;

7   a printing preference;

8   a printing location preference;

9   a mailing preference; and

10   an e-mailing preference.

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1   25. A   method   for   processing   digital   images

2   comprising the steps of:

3   providing a reference platform;

4   establishing a standard default profile in the

5   reference platform; and

6   establishing initial user profile information

7   on   the   reference   platform   without   requiring   user

8   interface.

1   26. The   method   of   25   wherein   user   profile

2   information is selected from a group consisting of:

3   a username and password;

4   an identification number of a device;

5   a method of payment;

6   a setting to allow access;

7   a printing preference;

8   a printing location preference;

9   a mailing preference; and

10   an e-mailing preference.

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1   27. A method for processing digital images

2 comprising the steps of:

3   providing a reference platform device from a

4 retail outlet to a consumer;

5   connecting the device to a central server;

6   establishing an account with the central

7 server;

8   configuring the device;

9   uploading images to the central server; and

10   directing the central server to process images.

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1   28. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of

2 providing the reference platform device to a consumer

3 further comprises giving the device to the consumer for

4 free.

1   29. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of

2 directing the central server to process images further

3 comprises the step of printing the images at a printer at

4 the central server's site.

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1   30. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of

2 directing the central server to process images further

3 comprises the step of impressing the images onto a CD

4 with a CD writer

1   31. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of

2 directing the central server to process images further

3 comprises the step of placing the images on a web site.

1   32. The method of claim 27, further comprising the

2 step of directing that the images be forwarded to a

3 server at a local store.

1   33. The method of claim 32, further comprising the

2 step of printing the images at a printer at the local

3 store's site.

1   34. The method of claim 32, further comprising the

2 step of impressing the images onto a CD with a CD writer

3 at the local store's site.

1   35. The method of claim 27, further comprising the

2 step of directing that the images be forwarded to the

3 user.

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1   36.   The method of claim 35, further comprising the

2   step of printing the images at a printer at the user's

3   site.

1   37.   The method of claim 27, further comprising the

2   step of allowing the user to connect to central server to

3   manipulate the images.

1   38.   The method of claim 27, wherein the device is

2   pre-configured with settings directed to the retail

3   outlet's server.

1   39.   The method of claim 27, wherein the device is

2   pre-configured with a setting to direct that uploaded

3   images are sent to the store that provided the device.

1   40.   The method of claim 27, wherein the step of

2   uploading images to the central server is determined by a

3   user preference which specifies the time when uploading

4   is to occur.

1   41.   The method of claim 27, further comprising the

2   step of mailing processed images to the consumer.

1   42.   The method of claim 27, further comprising the

2   step of transmitting processed images to the consumer.

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1   43. The method of claim 27, further comprising the

2   step of making the processed images available for the

3   consumer to pick up.

1   44. A method for configuring a reference platform

2   by a user comprising the steps of:

3   contacting a service provider;

4   submitting information to said service provider;

5   creating an account for said user by said service

6   provider;

7   connecting said reference platform to a

8   communication receptacle; and

9   contacting said service provider with said reference

10   platform;

11   wherein said reference platform downloads said

12   configuration script.

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1   45. A   method   of   processing   digital   images

2   comprising the steps of:

3   connecting   an   imaging   device   to   a   reference

4   platform, said reference platform having a pre-defined

5   configuration script;

6   generating a print request form with said imaging

7   device, said print request form designating at least one

8   image file for processing;

9   uploading said print request form, said at least one

10 image file and said configuration script to said service

11 provider via said reference platform;

12   processing said at least one image file according to

13 said print request form for generate a processed image;

14 and

15   delivering said processed image to said user.